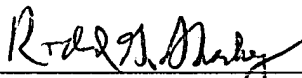


It is noted that the face of the '313 Patent lists that the Patent matured from U.S. Application No. 09/324,096 which was filed June 1, 1999 with no priority filing listed. Therefore, the effective filing date for the '313 Patent appears to be June 1, 1999. The subject application is a continuation of co-pending application U.S. Patent Application No. 09/632,387; which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/291,823, filed April 14, 1999, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,171,577; which application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application 08/690,184, filed July 26, 1996, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,968,477. Since there are no continuation-in-part applications intervening between the subject application and 08/690,184, the subject application has an effective filing date of July 26, 1996. Therefore, the subject application was effectively filed nearly three years prior to the application that matured into the '313 Patent. Accordingly, the subject application is senior to the application that matured into the '313 Patent.

Respectfully submitted,

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